

RAISING THE PROFILE OF SAFEGUARDING
AND PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICE

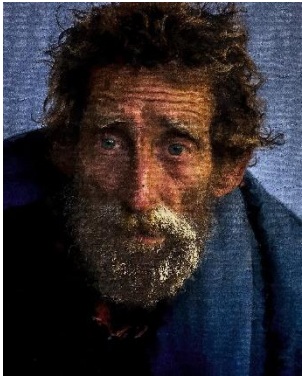
- INSIDE THIS ISSUE
- Chair’s Introduction
 - Spotlight on: Domestic Abuse and Older People
 - Safeguarding: Information Sharing - Why does it matter?
 - Upcoming Safeguarding Dates, Events, and Training
 - HSAB Strategic Planning Event

Chair’s Introduction

Hi everyone

I am really pleased to be introducing the second edition of our Partnership Forum Newsletter. I hope you find it both interesting and informative.

I am particularly happy that this year we are focusing on how we ensure that the people who use or have used services are enabled to use their voices and their lived experience to clearly shape our response to safeguarding issues on both an individual and a system level.



I was recently talking to a colleague about this in the context of homelessness, particularly for people living a street-based life. Over recent years - and particularly since Covid - there has been growing interest (and action) on learning from people with lived experience of adult safeguarding and homelessness. Of course, person centered practice is nothing new. However – really putting the person at the center of a co-produced process and really listening to what they are telling us can be easy to say but not always easy to do. Even very experienced practitioners working in progressive agencies have owned up to sometimes making assumptions or to trying to deal with symptoms rather than underlying cause.

As my colleague and I talked I realised that what we were discussing came back to *making safeguarding personal* and to why this is such an incredibly important baseline for practice. If we are not truly listening to someone who is street homeless and to why

they behave as they do – perhaps by drinking, taking drugs or both, how can we help them to effectively safeguard themselves? If they are extremely vulnerable, how can we take steps to safeguard them if we don't understand why they do what they do?

We happened to be talking about people who are living a street-based life/street homeless, but we could have been talking about anybody who *needs help to improve or resolve their circumstances* as set out as a key aim of making safeguarding personal. Honestly, this was a bit of a moment for me because it made me look at the concept of making safeguarding personal in a much deeper way than I think I had before, and it has become more relevant to me as a result.



Spotlight on: Domestic Abuse and Older People

Domestic Abuse has no age limit:

More than 10% of women killed by a partner or ex-partner are aged 66 years and above, however they are the least likely to leave their abuser or seek help!



On average, older victims experience abuse for twice as long before seeking help as those aged under 61 and nearly half have a disability.

Victims over the age of 61 are much more likely to experience abuse from an adult family member or current intimate partner than those 60 and under.

Older victims are less likely to attempt to leave in the year before accessing help, and more likely to be living with the perpetrator after getting support.

Older victims are significantly more likely to have a disability – for a third, this is physical (34%)

Source: Independent Age

Jean aged 71, I became increasingly dependent on my husband as my physical health deteriorated, I became increasingly tired and weak leading me to having increased mobility issues and I was unable to care for myself, I wasn't able to go out and see my friends anymore and I became quite isolated. I was placed in respite care as my husband needed a break, I felt better within a day or two it turned out my husband was

abusing me and was deliberately withholding medication and food in order to keep me weak.

Behind Closed doors

Many older people who are experiencing domestic abuse in later life don't even recognise themselves as victims, growing up in a time when what happened in the family home was private you '*don't wash your dirty linen in public*' and marriage has to be '*until death do us part*'. It was only in 1991 when marital rape in England was made a criminal offence. If you got married aged 21 in 1973 you would be aged 65 today and are likely to have a different perception of consent, gender roles, and expectations within marriage and personal relations. There is misconception that older adults are neither sexually active nor interested in sex, so there is no reason to ask them about their sexual relationships, older people are less likely to feel comfortable talking about sexual relationships often considered a taboo conversation, this can sometimes be an added barrier to understanding abusive behaviours.



The Halton Safeguarding Board recognises that domestic abuse affects older people in our local communities and has developed a work plan to support and develop this key thematic area, developing multi-agency responses and practice and helping older people recognise abuse.

If you are experiencing domestic abuse or are worried about someone else, call the [National Domestic Violence Helpline](#). (run jointly between Women's Aid and Refuge) on **0808 2000 247**.

Halton Domestic Abuse Team can be contacted on 0151 511 8181 or IDVA@halton.gov.uk

Safeguarding: Information Sharing - Why does it matter?



Sharing the right information, at the right time, with the right people is fundamental to good practice in safeguarding, however, has been highlighted as a difficult area of practice. Adults have a general right to independence, choice and self-determination including control over the storage and sharing of information about themselves. These rights can be overridden however in the context of adult safeguarding.

The Law

Sharing information between organisations as part of day-to-day safeguarding practice is covered in the following laws: Common law duty of confidentiality, Human

Rights Act, Crime & Disorder Act, The Data Protection Act 2018, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Information

When Can I Share?

Sharing Decisions on sharing information must be justifiable and proportionate, based on the potential or actual harm to adults and the rationale for decision-making should always be recorded.



When sharing information about adults at risk consider the following questions to help decide if and when to share: Is there a clear legitimate purpose? Do you have consent? Does information enable individual to be identified? Is there a lawful reason to share without consent?

How can I share?

Once you have determined that information needs sharing you need to: Identify how much information is needed to be shared Distinguish fact from fiction Make sure you are giving information to the right individual Share the information securely Be transparent with the person, informing them that the information has been shared, where doing so will not create or increase the risk of harm to the individual.

No consent

Individuals may not give their consent to the sharing of safeguarding information for a number of reasons. If a person refuses intervention to support them with a safeguarding concern, or requests that information about them is not shared with other safeguarding partners, their wishes should be respected. However, there are a number of circumstances where the practitioner can reasonably override such a decision, including: The person lacks the mental capacity to make that decision-properly explore this and recorded in line with the Mental Capacity Act Other people are, or may be, at risk, including children Sharing the information could prevent a crime The alleged abuser has care and support needs and may also be at risk A serious crime has been committed Staff are implicated The person has the mental capacity to make that decision but they may be under duress or being coerced The risk is unreasonably high and meets the criteria for a multi-agency risk assessment conference referral A court order or other legal authority has requested the information. If the person cannot be persuaded to give their consent then, unless it is

considered dangerous to do so, it should be explained to them that the information will be shared without consent. The reasons should be given and recorded. The safeguarding principle of proportionality should underpin decisions about sharing information without consent, and decisions should be on a case-by-case basis.

A poster on the 7 golden rules of information sharing can be found here:

[The Safeguarding Network -The seven golden rules to sharing information](#)

Upcoming Safeguarding Dates, Events, and Training

- **23 March 2023: National Day of Reflection 2023**
An opportunity to remember our loved ones who've died and support those who are grieving a loss.
- **20 - 24 March 2023: Social Work England - Social Work Week**
Social Work Week 2023 will take place from Monday 20 to Friday 24 March 2023, and will aim to bring people together to learn, connect, and influence change.

Programme: This includes information about how to:

[book tickets to attend our headline sessions](#) [sign up to sector-led sessions and events](#)

Key themes:

Learn: the breadth of social work: lived, learned and professional experiences

Connect: social work identity and sharing best practice

Influence: looking back at the past 3 years and looking forward to what's next for social work

HSAB Training 2023 / 24

The HSAB Training Programme for 2023 / 24 has now been distributed and can be found at the below link:

<https://adult.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/HSAB-training-programme.pdf>

This is free safeguarding training. What is available over the next few months is listed below and can be accessed via the Eventbrite link below:



Self-Neglect Awareness: Tue, Apr 25, 13:30
Grangeway Youth & Community Centre • Runcorn



Safeguarding Adults Awareness and Responsibilities: Thu, May 11, 09:30
Grangeway Youth & Community Centre • Runcorn



Financial; Abuse: Tue, Jun 6, 17:00
Grangeway Youth & Community Centre • Runcorn



Self-Neglect Awareness: Thu, Jun 8, 09:30
Grangeway Youth & Community Centre • Runcorn



Provider-led concerns and enquiries - local policy and procedure: Thu, Jun 15, 09:30
Grangeway Youth & Community Centre • Runcorn

Bookings can be made through: <http://haltonsafeguardingadultsboard.eventbrite.com/>

HSAB Strategic Planning Event

The HSAB held a virtual Strategic Planning Event on Thursday 1st December 2022 via MS Teams, to develop priorities and key actions to inform the “Strategic Plan on a Page” and work programmes of the HSAB and its associated sub groups. The event was well attended with 32 representatives from all statutory partners, health sector and voluntary/third sector organisations.

The event was facilitated by Moira Wilson, Care and Health Improvement Advisor, Yorkshire and Humber for the Local Government Association. The event began with an introduction and outline of the event that Moira presented, reminding partners of the legal context from the Care Act 2014, along with some current issues and priorities and the outcomes from the day.

Helen Moir, Divisional Manager for Independent Living and Safeguarding Lead at Halton Borough Council, gave a presentation on themes and what the data is telling us.

This led to five breakout room discussions focused on the draft Strategic Plan; what other work areas should be added to the draft plan; what actions can organisations take to progress the proposed work areas and what support or guidance might sub groups provide to support member organisations. Each group had a one-hour discussion, and then fed back to the whole group.

From this multi-agency engagement event, a “Strategic Plan on a Page” has been formulated, based on the three main HSAB priorities of Quality Assurance; Learning & Professional Development and Co-production and Engagement.

The Strategy on a Page can be found at the below link:

<https://adult.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Strategy-on-a-page-2022-.pdf>

Next Steps

The Annual Report was presented to the Health Policy and Performance Board in September for approval and publication.

Information gathered from the Strategic Planning Event is being used by HSAB sub-group Chairpersons to support the development of the work programmes for the sub-groups into 2023 / 24 and beyond. Progress with the work programmes will be monitored through the HSAB Executive Group, who will update the HSAB as appropriate.

The Strategic Planning Event is recognised as an important way of engaging with partners in identifying priority areas for the HSAB and its sub-groups to keep people safe and as such will be an annual event.

